

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
September 27, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Reverend Rick Boshoven-Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:
President Hardaway acknowledged that the month of October is “Breast Cancer Awareness” month.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated September 27, 2016. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2016. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Spann referred to Mr. Spires for a report. Mr. Spires provided detailed information regarding the contract for the town-wide sign replacement project. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve the contract and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac questioned the status of the “No Dumping” signs. Ms. Orlich said that Public Works will be installing them in about a week.

Halloween Trick-or-Treat hours will be from 5-7 p.m.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for a report. Ms. Orlich requested a signature from President Hardaway on a second copy of the participant counterpart document which is for signs for the trails. President Hardaway commented on the rules sign at the parks.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Barron referred to Matt Lake for a report. Mr. Lake provided Stormwater updates regarding various drainage improvement projects. Mr. Lake said that the IDEM audit is complete and said we did well regarding the Town’s compliance with Rule 13.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit discussed information regarding the retention pond located at the Preserves. Mr. Bushemi provided further details for this parcel and the acceptance of conveyance of Preserves’ drainage and detention lot to Town Of Merrillville. Mr. Pettit made a motion to accept the conveyance and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mrs. Barron provided an update from the Lake County Solid Waste meeting. She said that Solid Waste is looking for a new compost site for their leaves and will also be starting a new tire program.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway requested an update related to various lots in which the Town of Merrillville purchased. Mr. Bushemi provided the details for this matter. President Hardaway discussed the possibility of obtaining a board up company as opposed to using the Public Works department. Discussion followed. Mr. Pettit made a motion to have the Town Manager issue an RFP for a board up company and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Pettit requested that Mr. Bushemi follow up with him for an update regarding the tax sale for the Old Mill property.

Mr. Pettit made a motion for the Town of Merrillville to execute the demolition of the structure that was the old Marianne's Deli located at approximately 7200 Broadway as of November 1, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. Discussion followed regarding this matter. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 16-27: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana to amend the text of the zoning ordinance to establish exceptions to promote the development of affordable rental housing for lower income households. Mr. Bushemi commented on this matter. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Uzelac. Further discussion followed regarding the requested text change for this ordinance. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to suspend the rule on the second reading and allow for it to take place at today's meeting. Mrs. Barron seconded the motion to suspend the rules. There was no discussion. The motion to suspend the rule for second reading was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Ord. 16-28: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana appropriating additional monies within the Motor Vehicle Highway fund of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 16-29: Be it ordained / resolved by the Town of Merrillville that for the expenses of MERRILLVILLE CIVIL TOWN for the year ending December 31, 2017 the sums herein specified are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be held to include all expenditures authorized to be made during the year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided for by law. In addition, for the purposes of raising revenue to meet the necessary expenses of MERRILLVILLE CIVIL TOWN, the properly tax levies and property tax rates as herein specified are included herein. Budget From 4-B for all funds must be completed and submitted in the manner prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance.

This ordinance/resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval by the Town of Merrillville. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 16-26: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana appropriating additional monies within the Unsafe Blighted Property fund for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 16-27: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana to amend the text of the zoning ordinance to establish exceptions to promote the development of affordable rental housing for lower income households. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 16-29: A resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, approving Real Property Tax Abatement on property located within an Economic Revitalization Area. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, September 28, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Stormwater Management Board meeting, October 4, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

Plan Commission workshop meeting, October 4, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Police Commission meeting, October 7, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

Town Hall Offices Closed (except for Emergency Services)
October 10, 2016 observance of Columbus Day.

Town Council meeting, October 11, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer